Attorney Docket No.: CARD 1002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re A	Application of: Ronald S. Vladyka Jr.))))	Group Art Unit: 1623 Examiner: Everett White	20	
Applic	cation Serial No.: 09/708,581			JAN -3	RECE
Filed:	November 9, 2000))		PM	150 03AI
Title:	Microcrystalline Cellulose Cushioning Granules)))	HAND DELIVERY	2։ կ3	0/2960

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 0 7 2003

Sir:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

This is a Request for Reconsideration in response to the Final Rejection dated October 30, 2002. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in the present application.

The present invention relates to a method for making porous microcrystalline cellulose granules by granulating microcrystalline cellulose with a combination of water and a water-miscible, volatile, polar organic solvent. After granulation, the granules are first dried to remove substantially all of the polar organic solvent without removing a substantial portion of the water and without spheronizing or extruding the granules. Subsequent to removing substantially all of the polar organic solvent, a substantial portion of the water is removed from the granules to thereby obtain the porous microcrystalline cellulose granules. This granulation process produces a special form of microcrystalline cellulose granules that are characterized by a large mean particle size (i.e. 250-1000)